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"The seven wires are $9^s{\cdot}2$ apart at the equator, but they might be 7^s, nay 5^s, for an expert observer.

"The instrument is reversed every third day in fine weather for the reading for the line of collimation when the middle wire is in that line. Then, adding the correction for diurnal aberration, and for the distance of the middle wire from the mean of the seven, we obtain an imaginary wire which is driven into the line of collimation by means of the register head, and this is the *set* for observation.

"The next reversion shows if there is any residual error of collimation to apply. My books prove the advantage of the plan, and what is of some value besides, I have shaken off a portion of the calculations for errors of position. Why not use a micrometer for right ascensions as well as polar distances, if you have the means for verification or constant check? I am observing the whole of the southern stars of the B.A.C. in right ascension and polar distance. About 600 or 650 are not yet observed.

"A capital series of polar distances for another determination of the parallax of *α Centauri* are ready for computation.

"The relative positions of the components for July 25, 1852, are

Angle of Position ...	$262^\circ{\cdot}77$
Distance	$5''{\cdot}03$

In January 1870 the angle and distance were respectively 246°0 and $7''{\cdot}15$.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Maclear, dated August 23, 1852.

"I have just received Stratford's ephemeris of Biela's Comet. The sky was clouded last night. I am now well armed for these visitors.

"Another batch of about 40 B.A.C. discrepancies are reduced, but not in shape. I will try to get them ready for the return mail; otherwise by the following. Some of these are not explicable by the plan hitherto offered. Therefore such should be closely watched.

"I expect that the *whole* of the southern stars of the B.A.C. will have been observed by the 31st of December, in right ascension and polar distance.

"An unceasing series of observations in right ascension has been taken of the close circumpolars since the 24th of May. On that day *τ Octantis* was observable at consecutive transits. Their season will end with *σ Octantis* in September. Thus good meridian marks are in progress of *erection* for the transit circle. Special tables can be calculated for one of the 10th mag. only about 9′ from the pole; with bright wire illumination this object will be useful. B.A.C. 7020 and *σ Octantis* are our best polars for micrometer transits. These admit of great precision and great despatch."

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Mr. W. Gray states that "on Easter Monday, the 12th of April, I saw, at Scarborough, immediately after sunset, a red pillar above the sun's place, which I estimated at about 18 degrees in height. I noted it for about ten minutes, when I was obliged to leave the spot."

Extract of a Letter from Capt. Shea.

"I send you, for the inspection of the Royal Astronomical Society, a drawing representing the column of light seen by me for twenty minutes, immediately after sunset on the 8th of April, 1852. It did not appear to be a ray from the sun, as the sun set at the extreme left hand of the drawing.

"The phenomenon was observed from the Old Steine, Brighton, No. 8."

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